

Appl. No. 10/604,787
Amdt. dated April 9, 2006
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 16, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 12 remain in this application. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 have been withdrawn.

Claim 1 is amended to narrow the range of loft angles from between 34 and 41 degrees to between 34 and 41 degrees in order to overcome the rejection over Leveque de Vilmorin in view of Lundberg and the Examiner's Official Notice.

Claim 1 is further amended to narrow the range of lie angles from between 66 and 70 degrees to between 66 and 69 degrees in order to overcome the rejection over Liao in view of Lundberg and the Examiner's Officer Notice.

Applicant contends that the prior art disclosed by Leveque de Vilmorin in view of Lundberg teaches away from the present invention. The prior art cited teaches towards a full range of irons that can be used for golf shots ranging from several hundred yards to fairly close to the green. In general, the combined prior art teaches toward clubs that can be used effectively for golf shots by golfers smaller in stature than the average golfer. These shots require the full range of hip, arm, and leg motion that is normally observed in drives and long iron play.

The instant invention is designed so that it can only be effective in normal circumstances when used with a putting type motion as is disclosed in the specification. Inherent in the

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putting type motion is the more pronounced "hunching over" the ball that is observed in the normal putting stance as contrasted with the more upright stance observed in drives and long iron play. The instant invention is therefore only appropriate for approach shots – i.e. shots of up to 100 yards from the green. If an average height golfer tried to use the clubs disclosed in the instant invention for drives and long iron play, the result would be less than optimum. Certainly, the "hunched over" stance would not allow the average golfer to address the ball with the same force due to the fact that the golfer would not be able to get the same amount of leg, hip, and arm motion into the swing. Conversely, if the average golfer attempts to stand more upright while attempting to use the instant invention for long shots, he or she will invariably top the ball.

In light of the above, the applicant respectfully submits that the combined prior art teaches away from the instant invention.

Claim 4 is rewritten in independent form in order to place it in allowable form in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation.

Claim 5 is amended to narrow the range of loft angles from between 42 and 47 degrees to between 46 and 47 degrees in order to overcome the rejection over Leveque de Vilmorin in view of Lundberg and the Examiner's Official Notice.

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Claim 5 is further amended to narrow the range of lie angles from between 66 and 70 degrees to between 66 and 69 degrees in order to overcome the rejection over Liao in view of Lundberg and the Examiner's Officer Notice.

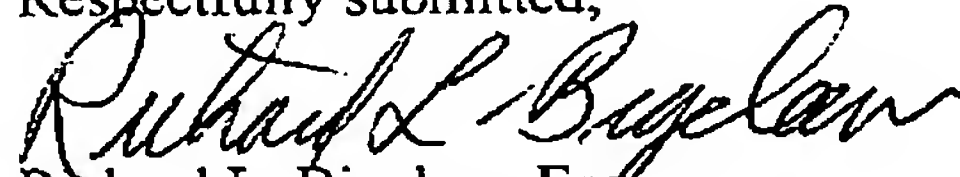
Claim 9 is amended to narrow the range of loft angles from between 48 and 55 degrees to between 48 and 51 degrees in order to overcome the rejection over Mendenhall in view of Lundberg and the Examiner's Official Notice.

Claim 9 is further amended to narrow the range of lie angles from between 66 and 70 degrees to between 66 and 69 degrees in order to overcome the rejection over Liao in view of Lundberg and the Examiner's Officer Notice.

Claim 9 is further amended to narrow the range of shaft lengths from between 34.5 and 37.5 inches to between 36.0 and 37.5 inches in order to overcome the rejection over the sand wedge disclosed by Hueber.

Please contact the undersigned at 860-930-3074 if you have any comments or questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Bigelow, Esq.
Registration Number: 46,038
Phone: 860-930-3074